

**§ 12.02-7 When documents are required.**

(a) Every seaman employed on any merchant vessel of the United States of 100 gross tons or upward, except vessels employed exclusively in trade on the navigable rivers of the United States, shall be issued, at the option of the seaman, a continuous discharge book, a certificate of identification, or merchant mariner's document representing such certificate of identification, which shall be retained by him. This book or certificate of identification or merchant mariner's document will bear a number, and this same number shall be shown on all certificates of service or efficiency issued to the holder of the book or certificate or document. Provisions of this section are not applicable to unrigged vessels except seagoing barges and certain tank barges.

(b) Every seaman, as referred to in paragraph (a) of this section, shall produce a continuous discharge book or certificate of identification or merchant mariner's document representing such a certificate to the United States shipping commissioner before signing Articles of Agreement, and where the seaman is not signed on before a shipping commissioner, one of these documents shall be exhibited to the master of the vessel at the time of his employment. Seamen who do not possess one of these documents may be employed at a foreign port or place.

(c)(1) Every person employed on any merchant vessel of the United States of 100 gross tons and upward, except those navigating rivers exclusively and the smaller inland lakes, below the rank of licensed officer and registered staff officer, shall possess a valid certificate of service, or merchant mariner's document representing such certificate, issued by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection.

(2) No certificate of service or efficiency is required of any person below the rank of licensed officer employed on any unrigged vessel except seagoing barges and certain tank barges.

(3) No certificate of service or efficiency is required of any person below the rank of licensed officer employed on any sail vessel of less than 500 net tons while not carrying passengers for hire and while not operating outside

the line dividing inland waters from the high seas, as defined in section 2 of the act of February 19, 1895, as amended (33 U.S.C. 151) and in 33 CFR part 82.

**§ 12.02-9 Application for documents.**

(a) An applicant for a certificate of service, certificate of efficiency, certificate of identification, continuous discharge book, or merchant mariner's document, shall make written application, in duplicate, on Coast Guard Form CG-719-b and shall appear in person before an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, or other person authorized to issue documents. This application may be for the certificates or the rating endorsement for which the seaman believes he is qualified. In the case of a seaman applying for his first certificate, other than certificate of identification, the application shall include a request for either a continuous discharge book or a merchant mariner's document representing a certificate of identification, at the option of the applicant.

(b)(1) When the application is submitted for a certificate of identification, certificate of service, certificate of efficiency, merchant mariner's document, or any combination thereof, or a continuous discharge book, the seaman shall furnish three unmounted dull finish photographs of passport type (2 inches by 1½ inches) taken within one year and showing the full face at least one inch in height with head uncovered.

(2) When the application requests a continuous discharge book in addition to a certificate of service or certificate of efficiency or merchant mariner's document one additional photograph shall be furnished.

(c) An applicant for a document where sea service is required shall produce with his application discharges or other documentary evidence of his service, indicating the name of the vessels and dates on which he has had service, in what capacity and on what waters.

(d) If the applicant possesses a continuous discharge book, certificate of identification, or merchant mariner's document representing such certificate, it shall be exhibited at the time